



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

FILE NUMBER: 100-4712

PART: 12 OF 19



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILE DESCRIPTION
BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT America First Committee

FILE NO. 100-4712

SECTION NO. 15*

SERIALS 529

through

541 (End)

* Sections 12, 13 and 14 of this file have been withheld pursuant to subsection (b) (3) of the Freedom of Information Act, the underlying statute being Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103.

Memo. • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

100-40002
165 f

TO : Director, FBI

b7c
DATE: May 28, 1945

PROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC, Washington

SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
[REDACTED] Informant
Information Concerning

On May 25, 1945,

[REDACTED] appeared in the Washington Field Office at which time she furnished the following information.

[REDACTED] and an honorably discharged soldier of this war residing at [REDACTED], had corresponded with her requesting that she ascertain the status of the America First Committee inasmuch as he had been approached on his discharge from the Army to become a member.

[REDACTED] according to informant, was [REDACTED] prior to entering the service almost three years ago. [REDACTED] has informed [REDACTED] there is a group within [REDACTED] who are active in the America First Committee and who are attempting to arrange for [REDACTED] membership inasmuch as he is a discharged veteran of this war.

[REDACTED] related this group within [REDACTED] is a group of German extraction which, prior to the war, was active in German and Bund affairs in and around Indianapolis.

[REDACTED] would be glad to discuss this matter with agents of the Bureau if necessary.

The above is being called to the Bureau's attention, as well as to the attention of the Chicago and Indianapolis Offices, inasmuch as it is apparent the America First Committee is soliciting membership from veterans of this war.

CC Chicago
Indianapolis

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 26 JUN 1967 BY SP8 BTL

312,319

JUN 15 1967

WILLIAM A. FULLER M.E.
COCOA FLORIDA

CONSULTING ENGINEER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-26-90 BY SP987dc

Mr. Hoover - Chief
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington D.C.

Bir,

I want something to show that I have a clean slate. Just because I was probably the only member of the American First Committee in this vicinity was an outspoken Roosevelt critic was brave enough to stand for my convictions- there has been a continuous stream of opprobrium directed at my wife and me which has not ended since the war. Now my boy is back from Europe and I want a little peace. I am 58 years old. Your department didn't help matter any by sending a couple of youthful operatives in answer probably to an anonymous note to talk with us. Now that has got out. Now we don't know. We certainly didn't say anything about it. We were too ashamed. Some one is peddling it around. The least you do is to send someone up here and see who it is that is keeping this up. I haven't many more years to live and it is contemptible to make me suffer this now and then.

This individual is only giving his name to me to
make him identifiable
and to file under
Date 65-2411

Yours truly,

RECEIVED
CHICAGO 29 JAN 25 1946
FBI

b7c

165-7
February 19, 1946

EX-40

Mr. William L. Peller
Cocoa, Florida

Dear Sir:

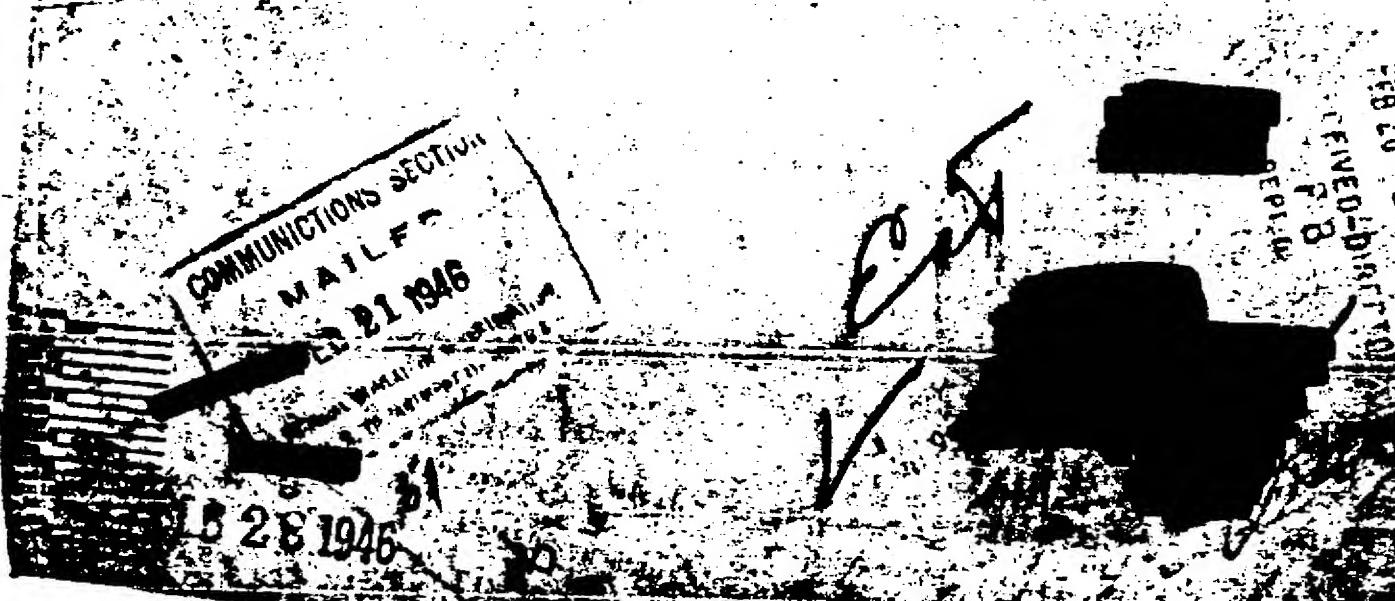
With reference to your letter of January 22, 1946, I wish to advise that the subject matter mentioned therein is not within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau and, therefore, I will be unable to comply with your request.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-26-90 BY SP9875/cb



BALTIMORE 2, MD.

July 3, 1946

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
F.B.I. - U.S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Would you kindly inform me, what, if anything
unfavorable, that your department has learned concerning the
American First Committee?

~~It was my privilege to serve on this committee
here previous to the war and knew the organization to be a good
sound American organization. I am enclosing a leaflet describing
the principles of this organization.~~

~~My purpose in asking this information of you is
that some friends of mine insist that this was a Communist
organization and I can not persuade them otherwise.~~

I would appreciate if you would let me have the
findings of your department.

Sincerely yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-26-90 BY SP9810/csl

RECORDED
INDEXED
FILED
JULY 10 1946

SE 20
VOC - 4778
F B I
JUL 24 1946

SAID
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

and

80%

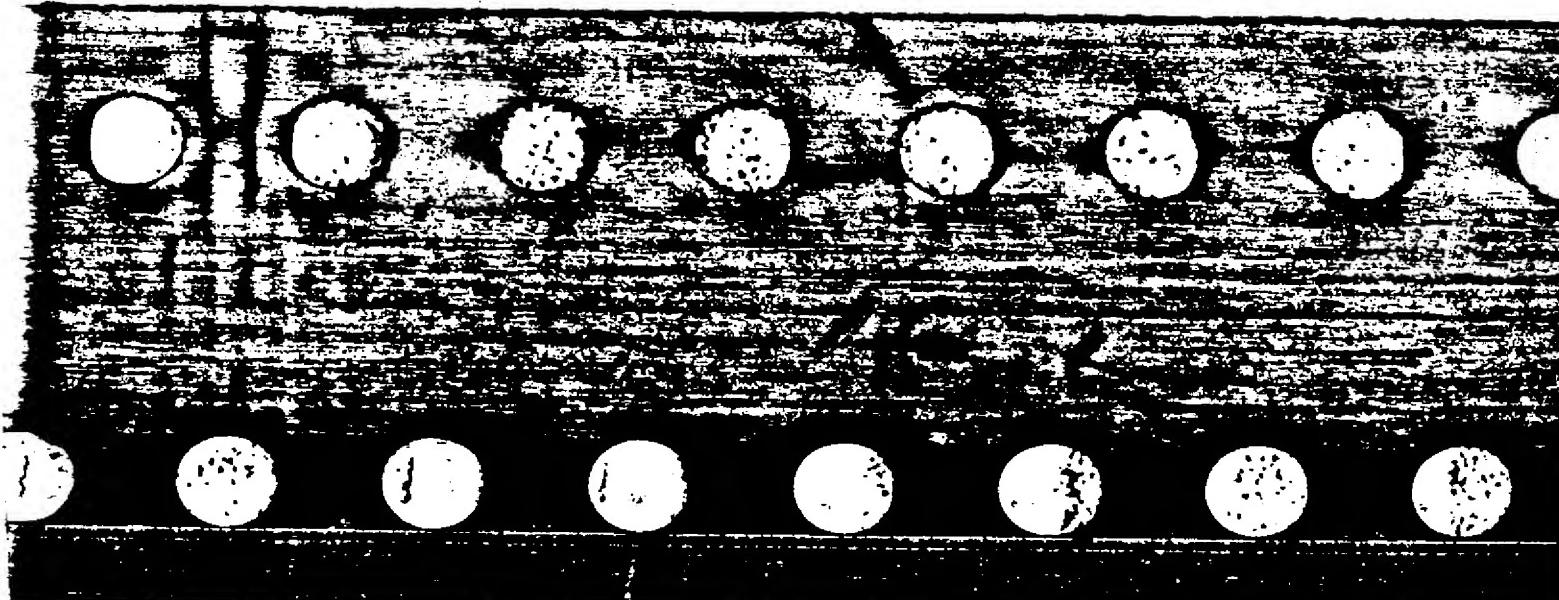
of the American People

Are Against War

National Defense at any Expense
But Keep our Boys at Home

100-4713-52

MESSAGE



We Will Not Participate N.
In Foreign Wars

"We are arming ourselves in purpose of conflict or intervention in foreign disputes. I repeat again that on the platform of our party; we participate in foreign wars and we send our Army, Naval or Air Force to fight in foreign lands outside of Americas except in case of attack."

"It is for peace that I have labored and it is for peace that I shall labor in the days of my life."

Philadelphia, Oct. 23, 1940

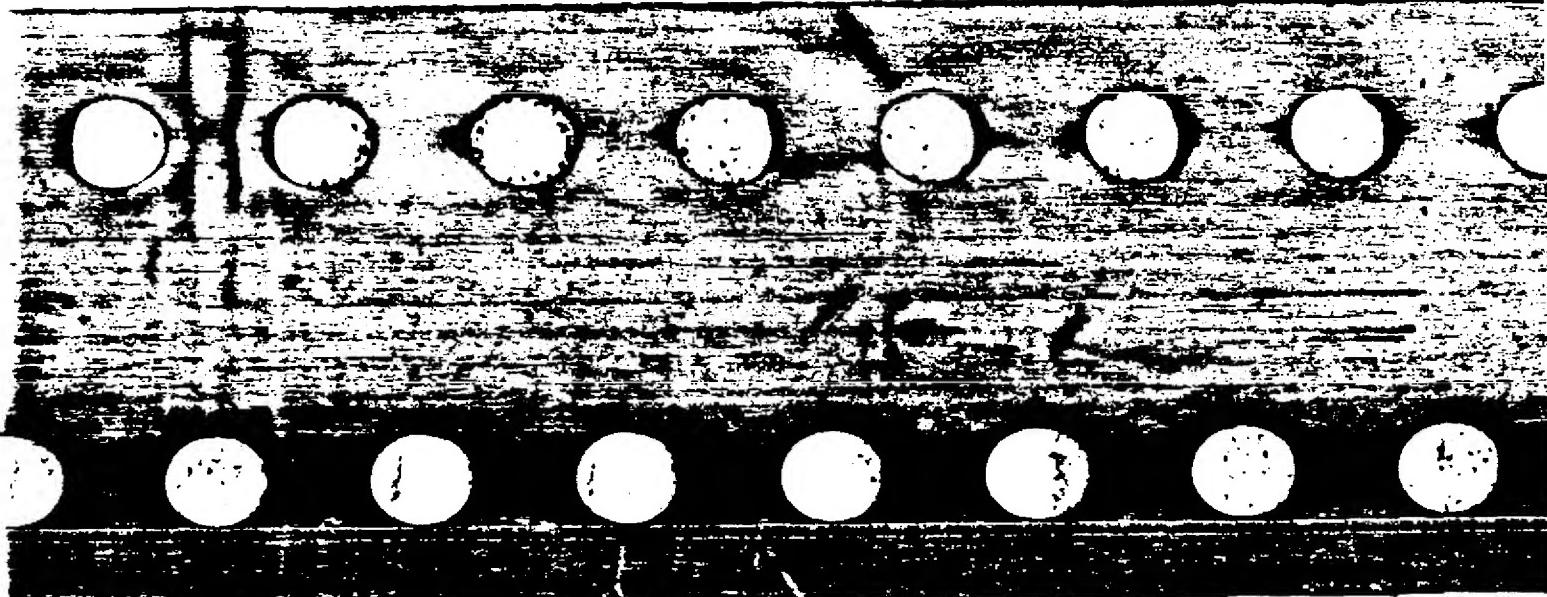
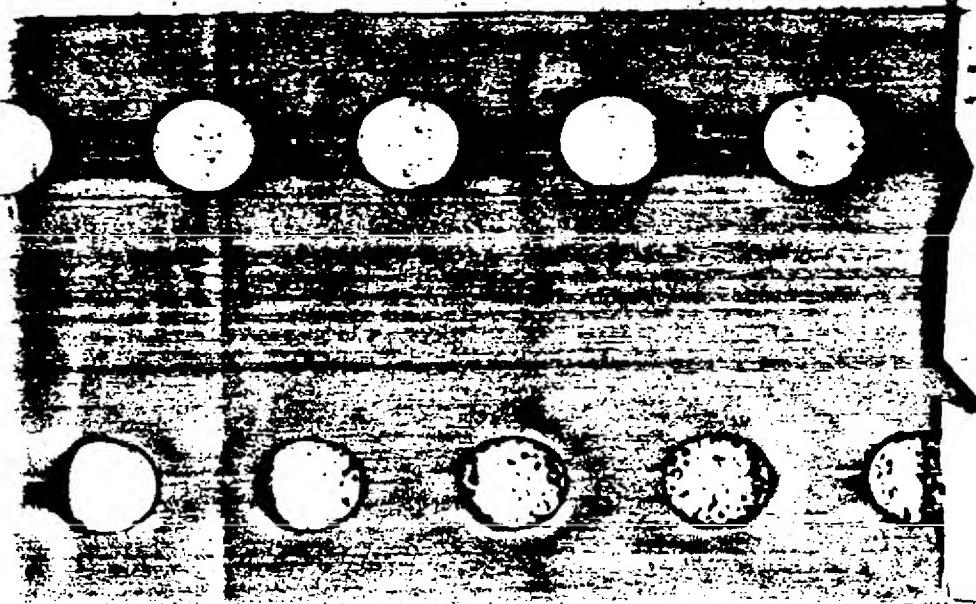
The First Purpose of Our Foreign Policy Is to Keep Out of War

"We look at the old world of Europe today. It is an ugly world, poisoned by hatred, and greed and fear. We can see what has been the inevitable consequence of that poison -- it has been war.

"And we look at this country, built by generations of peaceable, friendly men and women who had in their hearts faith -- faith that the good life can be obtained by those who work for it.

"We know that we are determined to defend our country and with our neighbors to defend this hemisphere. We are strong in our defense.

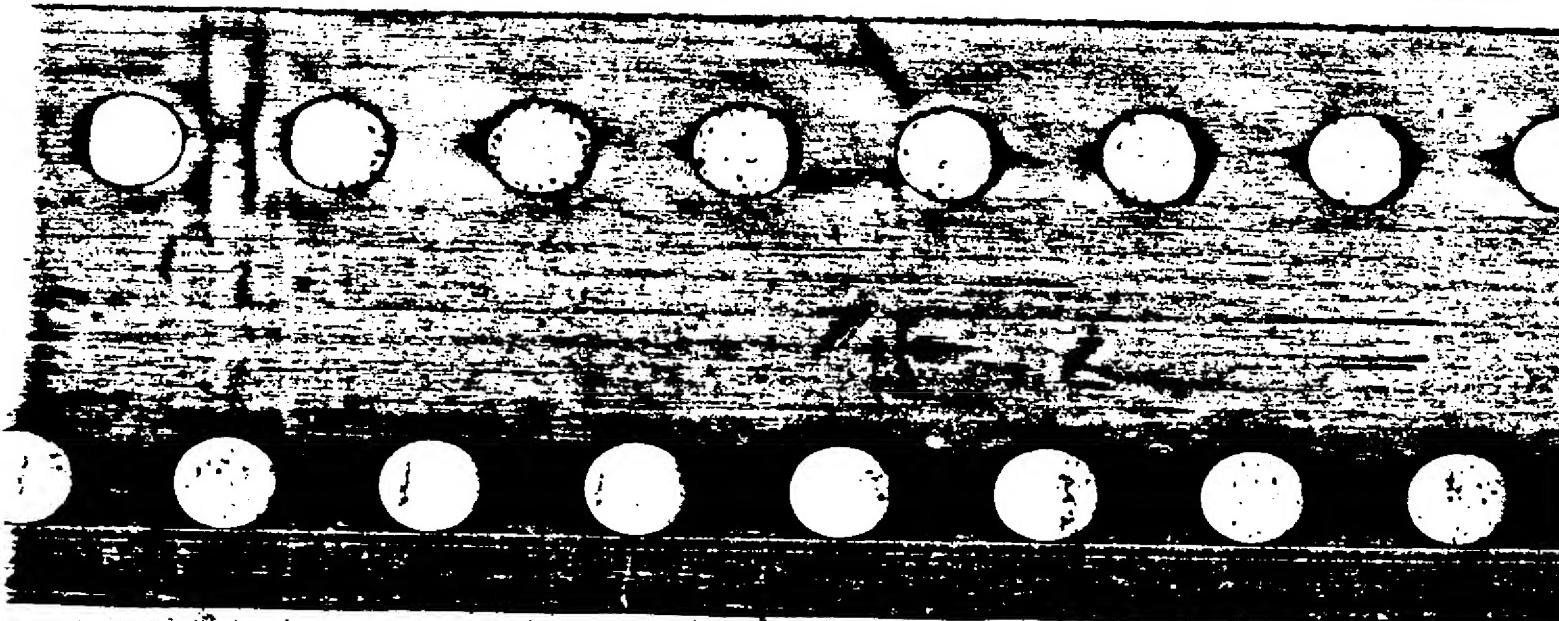
"The first purpose of our foreign policy is to keep our country out of war."



~~America First~~
Principles
of
the America First C

1. Our first duty is to keep a peace, not a path to war. Our entry into foreign wars has destroyed democracy, not saved it. The path to war is a false path to peace.
2. Not by acts of war abroad but by serving and extending democracy at home can we aid democracy and freedom in other lands.
3. In 1917 we sent our American ships into the war zone and this led us to enter the war. In 1941 we must keep our naval convoys and merchant vessels on this side of the Atlantic.
4. We must build a defense, for our own shores, so strong that no foreign power or combination of powers can invade our country, by sea, air or land.
5. Humanitarian aid is the duty of a strong, free country at peace. With proper safeguard for the distribution of supplies, we should feed and clothe the suffering and needy people of the occupied countries.

from
AMERICA-FIRST COMMITTEE
Maryland Chapter
516 N. CHARLES STREET, BALTIMORE, MD.
VERnon 6998



EDGES

CTION CAMPAIGN

"I Am Not Going to Be Sent

Foreign Wars

While I am talking to you, fathers

and mothers, I give you one more assur-

"I have said this before, but I shall

say it again and again, and again, your

sons are not going to be sent into any

foreign wars."

"They are going into training to form
a force so strong that, by its very existence,
it will keep the threat of war far away
from our shores. Yes, the purpose of our
defense is defense." Boston, Oct. 30, 1940

**Ships Flying the American Flag Must
Stay Out of the War Zones.**

"In 1935 in the face of growing dangers
throughout the world, your government
undertook to eliminate the hazards which
in the past had led to war. We made
it clear that ships flying the American
flag could not carry munitions to a bel-
ligerent; and that they must stay out of
war zones."

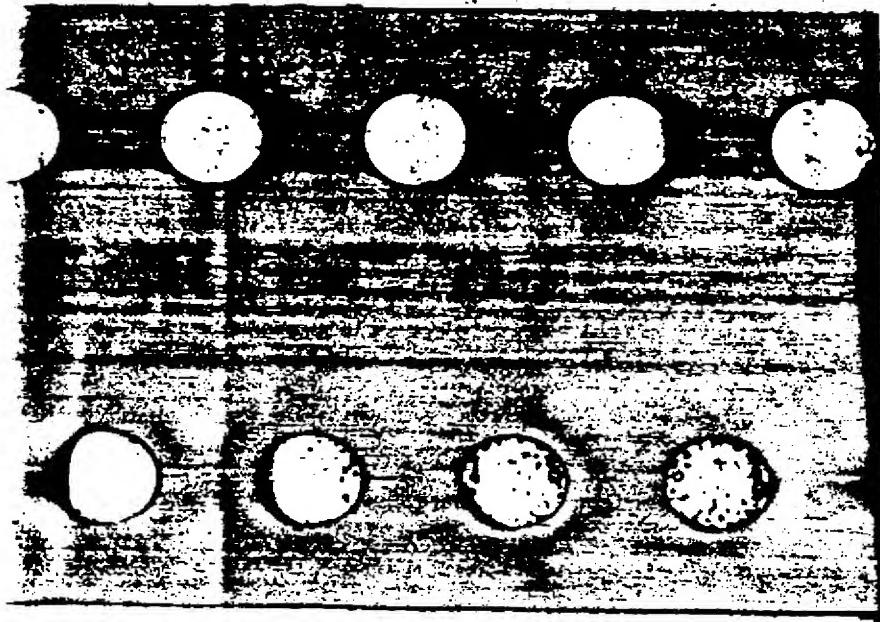
New York City, Oct. 28, 1940

**I Am Fighting to Keep Out of
Foreign Wars**

"I am fighting to keep this nation pros-
perous and at peace. I am fighting to keep
our people out of foreign wars and to keep
foreign conceptions of government out of
our United States." Brooklyn, Nov. 1, 1940

THE HORRORS W

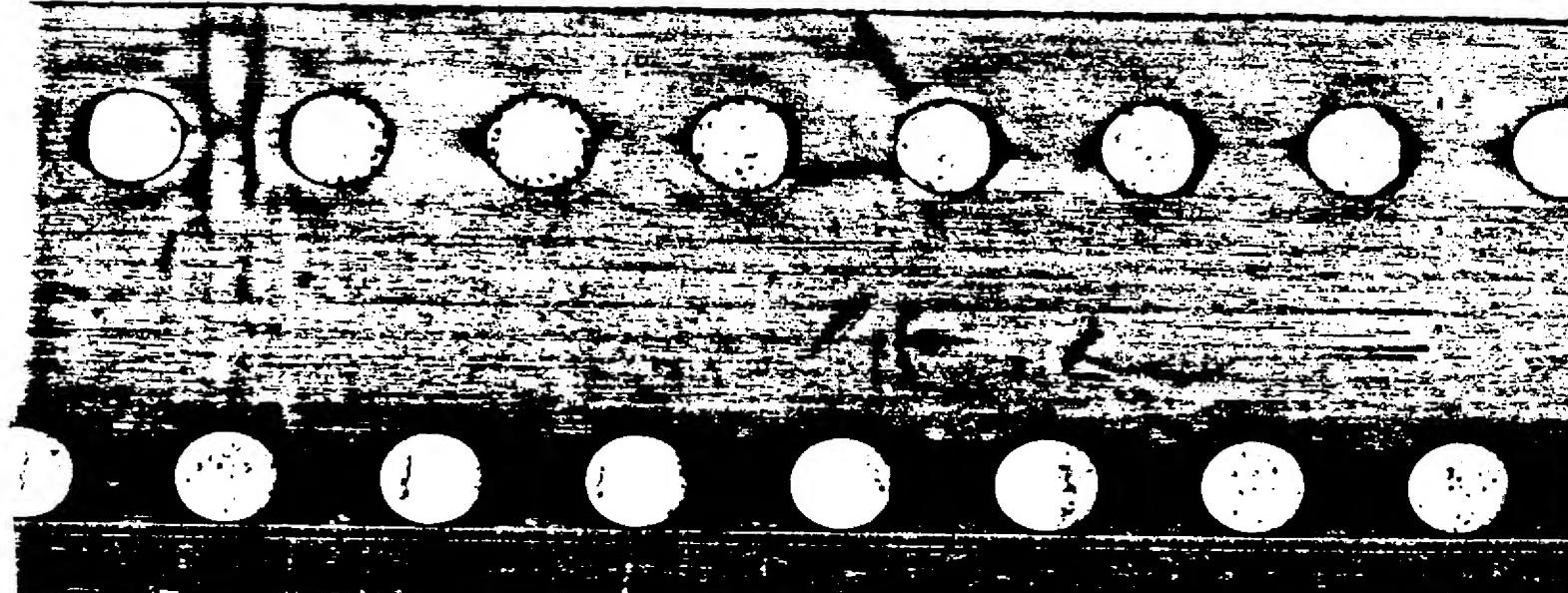
Demand Faithful Ful
of PRESIDENT ROOSE
Solemn and Sacred Promises



Wire — Wire — Telephone
President Roosevelt
Your Senators
Your Congressmen

JOIN WITH US NOW

ENROLL YOUR NEIGHBORS
in the
AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE
Maryland Chapter
516 North Charles St. Baltimore, Md.



~~SECRET~~

100-115-i

100-4712-531

July 19, 1946

Dear [REDACTED]

b7c

Reference is made to your letter of July 3, 1946.

I regret that I am unable to furnish you information along the lines requested. By virtue of a long-standing policy promulgated by the Attorney General of the United States, the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are held as confidential and information contained therein may not be released for other than official purposes. I am sure you will appreciate the reason and the necessity for such a policy.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-26-90 BY SP8B12/loc

CAG b7c

8

* JUL 19 1946 P

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1946 1-1000-1000

JUL 8 1946

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

R. T. HARBO [initials]

DATE: 11-15-46

FROM : H. B. LONG

SUBJECT: Unsub; Anonymous Letter Signed "American First Committee"
Sedition
Bureau file 100-4712

Mr. Tolson
 Mr. E. A. Tamm
 Mr. Clark
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Ladd
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Tracy
 Mr. Carson
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Gurnea
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Hendon
 Mr. Hutchinson
 Mr. Quinn [unclear]
 Miss [unclear]
 Miss [unclear]
 Miss [unclear]

[A.I.C. 10-26-90 BY SP1815/C]

There is attached the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Section.

Attachment

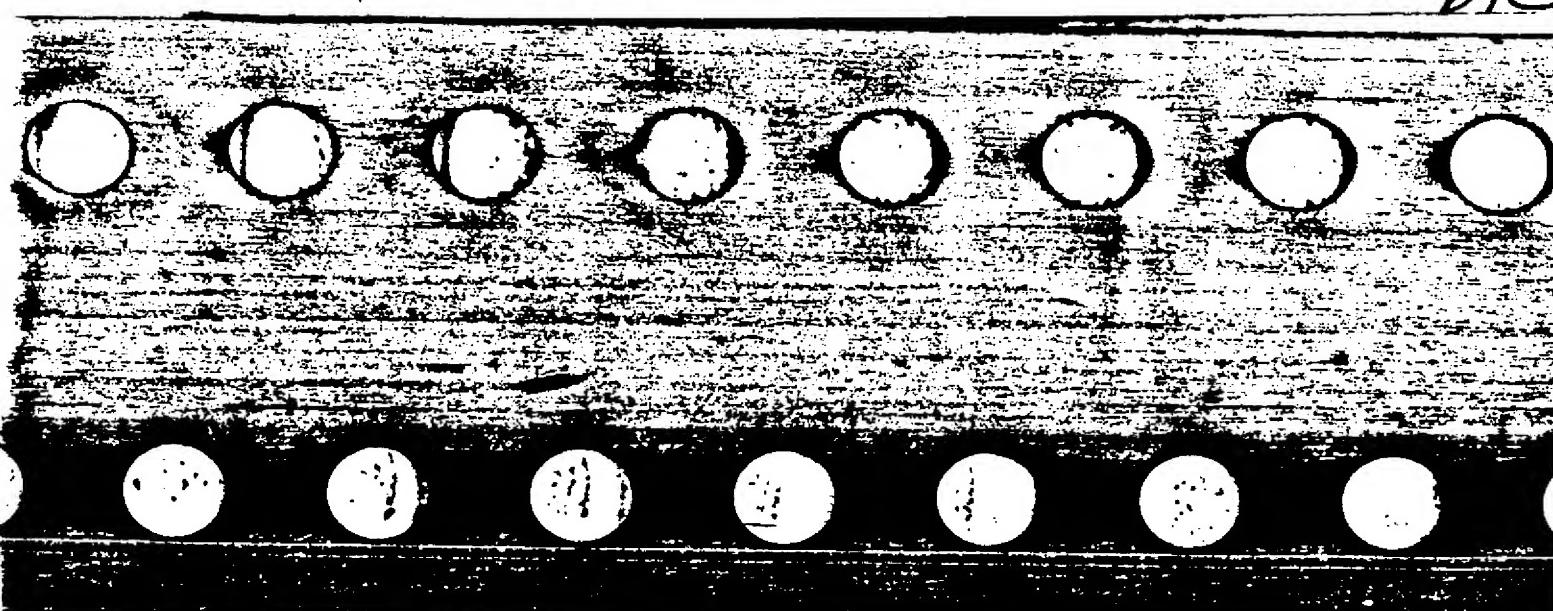
ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

ENCL

5 NOV 1946 6441

100-4712-532
 NOT RECORDED
 36 NOV 18 1946

b7c



165-2

January 16, 1940

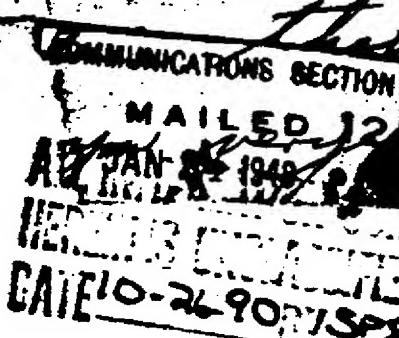
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

America First Committee

Dear Sir,

In a recent discussion with a friend of mine we started talking about the pros & cons of the "American First Committee". We both realized how unenformed we were about the committee's activities & beliefs -

I would very much appreciate your enlightenment concerning the



165 m
February 14, 1948.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
F.B.I., Justice Dept.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am wondering if your office has on its books
the name of [REDACTED] who at present is living with his wife
at [REDACTED]. He claims that
he has no more address but [REDACTED]

He has spoken at the Eola Park Forum several times this winter on subjects that show prejudiced reading and always aims to stir up trouble among Americans. He gets quite bitter against the Jews and the negroes, condemns the Marshall Plan and says the Republic is in its last days. He has all the appearances of a Russian spy altho he condemns the Russians—that probably is policy. He says our government is in improper hands, etc. He is a man rather stocky, with a twichy face in his late fifties. I have talked with him and he tells me that he was with the America First during the war and went about wherever he could find Germans. He claims he is of American parentage and educated in Methodist schools. He seems just now to line up with a tall middle-aged man from Boston who will argue with anyone in the audience and together they challenge speakers, the management, etc. They want fight and challenge everyone except other. I have not yet learned this latter man's name. We also had a [REDACTED] here from Chicago who gave three lectures on capitalism saying that he was of course, for capitalism but that now that communism was in the offing we should try to understand it, etc.

All of this seems suspicious to me. The management is very easy-willing to take anyone for speakers and by professing innocence of communists make the large part of the hearers believe them but I cannot help but feel that they are doing much harm. I do not know whether we have laws that could handle their case since they may be American citizens or not. However, I thought that I should apprise you of the matter. I shall be glad to know if you know anything about these men and if there is anything that can be done about them. 53

Very sincerely 700-472-500
RECORDED

SEARCHED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-26-90 BY SP/ES/col EX-1

165-111
February 20, 1948

RECORDED

100-1772-534

Dear [REDACTED]

EX-116

Your letter of February 14, 1948, has been received, and I want to thank you for sending the information concerning the individual you mention. Although I would like to do so sooner, in accordance with a long-standing policy of this Bureau any data in our files is confidential and available for official use only. I am sure you will understand the reason for this rule and that no inference will be drawn from my inability to do so at this time. The patriotic motives prompting your communication are indeed appreciated.

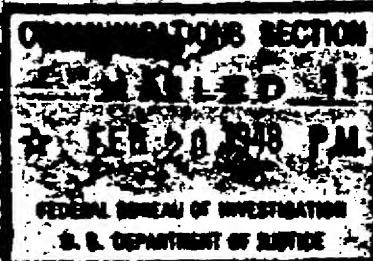
Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-26-90 BY SP/section

cc: [REDACTED] with copy of telegram



165-111
FEB 20 1948
1 MAR 1948

165g
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Sept. 7, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-26-98 BY SP6TS/CAC

Gentlemen:-

In 1941 or thereabouts, [REDACTED] was in unpleasant circumstances in the City because of his activit in the America First Committee. He came to [REDACTED], a mill town where he was employed [REDACTED] for three years when he was not re-elected because of questionable activities.

[REDACTED] was employed in a store for a year or two during which time I came to the community as [REDACTED]

In March 1947

[REDACTED] as he has kept his residence here.

b7C
b7D

I would be interested to know whether when the America First Com. was investigated by the FBI and found to be Communist inspired and organized, there was a roster of AFC members from New Haven, Conn. that included the name of the above.

Such information might not be available to me but if there is anything to report, you might be able and willing to inform me as to what official may obtain such information.

I feel that the intent to keep trouble brewing has a purpose in case certain international possibilities develope.

I would appreciate any information you can furnish me.

SEARCHED - 61

INDEXED - 61

FILED - 61

ml
Reb o. 11
of information as to a person is
available, where can I find [REDACTED]
FBI finding on [REDACTED]

19 SEP 1948

100-4712-536
1654

September 10, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

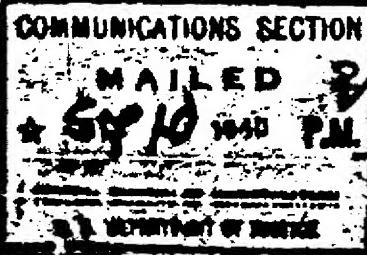
DATE 10-26-90 BY SP8BIS/col

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of September 7, 1948 has been received. I regret that I cannot be of service in connection with your request for information which may be in the files of this Bureau, as, in accordance with a long-standing policy, our files are confidential and available for official use only. I am sure you will understand the reason for this rule and that no inference will be drawn that we do, or do not, have information in our files because of my inability to be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. FLETCHER
FROM : D. M. Ladd
SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

DATE: March 26, 1948

On March 23, 1948, Mr. G. L. Millington of the Library of the State Department called and requested the present address of the America First Committee.

After checking, I advised him that this committee had gone out of existence some years ago and there was no indication that it had an office at the present time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-26-90 BY SP8BTS/cb

RECORDED

1700-4712
F B I
19 APR 01 1948

121

EX-31

SEARCHED

331
51 APR 12 1948

b7c

June 19, 1953

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

11.30.26.90

SP8BT5/Ca

Dear Mr. Hoover: The enclosed was mailed to numerous citizens of the Palm Beaches and in discussing it with a number of persons, the general opinion was "we don't like the tone of the letter". About this time year, every summer, certain cliques, or perhaps it is the same group, to start some kind of controversy. I did not hear Upton Close on the radio, nor have I discovered anyone who has, so don't know what his ideas were; also don't know just what he stands for. However, wouldn't be influenced by anything like the enclosed, which I think is definitely rousing". Also understand "America First" was considered sub-several years ago and "broken up". Right? Another thing we did not like about the piece, it was not signed, and that always makes one wonder, persons try to hide their identity.

Thought it over and decided the best thing to do was: not answer it
send it to you, for whatever investigation or consideration you may
think best to give it.

Very truly yours

SEC'D BELL CROWN

RECORDED - 75

EX-1896 BH.23

(enclosure)

UPTON CLOSE told the story (just as it is in the court records) of the false arrests and trial called the Mass Sedition Case of 1942 to 1944.

This case was a persecution of anti-communist, anti-New Deal and ar FEPC Americans by the Jewish detective bureau and agitation group call itself "Anti-Defamation League". The persecution and prosecution was sp by Walter Winchell(Weinschall) and Drew Pearson-both given medals and favors annually by said "League". Winchell used his sponsor's radio tu to promote not only the indictments and trial...which Judge Bolitha La after four years dismissed with the scathing statement; "A travesty of justice". With the aid of every Red cell and left wing "liberal" in America, Winchell pushed into a sale of millions to his unsuspecting listeners a fraudulent book called "Under Cover", which attacks innocent and guilty persons by the "guilt by association" method. In spite of Winchell's influence and the publisher's wealth, the book was finally "brought to book", decided by Federal Judge John P. Barnes-in the City of Chicago(1946) to be..."written by a person who would write anything for a dollar, published by a publisher who would do anything for a dollar." Said Judge Barnes; "This book charges the plaintiff was disloyal, anti-semitic and a Nazi agent. During the entire course of the I have never heard any evidence to sustain any of these charges".

Said Judge Barnes also: "If any man changes his name, it is human curiosity to know both his names, and that sort of man must bear the burden. If persons are Jews and Communists, they must bear that burden and it will not benefit them or their religion to set up a taboo against mentioning the fact. In our efforts to refrain from persecution we must not establish meaningless taboos. We must not establish the taboo that under no condition must we mention a person is a Jew. That will not stop persecution.

Following which, Judge Barnes cracked down on the Winchell-Carlson book. (Author and publishers admitted it was written by a man born in Armenia and who had been a communist agitator there, and who had used twenty odd aliases, ending up with the "Swedish" one in the book-"John Roy Carlson") You might look in your book stack and see if you have a copy. The Court adjudged- "Five hundred pages of twaddle, with a few outrageously unfounded charges of which any citizen might properly complain".

NOW, 7 YEARS LATER, AS THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT AND EDITORS OF GREAT PAPERS AND PUBLISHING HOUSES (as Little, Brown & Co.) ARE CONFESSING THAT THEY WERE COMMUNISTS, AND AS EVERY PINK IS SQUEALING AGAINST "GUILT BY ASSOCIATION"...NOW, UNDER THE GUISE OF "PROTECTING JEWS" THE REPRESENTATIVES OF A PRIVATE GESTAPO DARE GO SECRETLY TO THE OPERATOR OF A RADIO STATION AND THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN OF A BUSINESS MAN'S SERVICE CLUB IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, DEMANDING THE SUPPRESSION OF A NARRATOR WHO ONLY TELLS WHAT WAS DONE WHEN THE "REDS" WERE STILL LEAGUED WITH THE "UNITED FRONT" AND A CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION WHICH PUT HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF HELPLESS PEOPLE INTO THE POWER OF STALIN AND GAVE HIM \$1 BILLION OF UNITED STATES WEALTH.

CAN YOU LET THIS HAPPEN IN PALM BEACH COUNTY?

ALL THAT IS NEEDED TO DESTROY THIS REPUBLIC...IS THAT GOOD PEOPLE DON'T

NOTHING! THE FIRST CASUALTY IS THAT OF FREE SPEECH!

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-26-90 BY SP8BTSC/L

Senator Jack B. Tenny, Chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee of the California Legislature, says in a special report, out in May 1953;

" Officials of the Anti-Defamation League view the disproportionate number of Jews exposed in communist activities with a degree of alarm (but)...to oppose loyalty programs for fear that more Jews may be exposed in the process is extremely unrealistic...The Jews of America will find that a private Gestapo Agency such as that conducted by the small clique of the Anti-Defamation League bureaucracy tends to create the discrimination they seek to curb. The only Ghettos in America, after all, are those that are built by the Jewish bureaucracy itself and the quicker these are outlawed by American Jewry the better for American unity."

(Above paragraph from report by Jack B Tenny, Chairman on Un-American Activities, California State Legislature. Full report from Standard Publications, Los Angeles, California. \$ 1.00)

The Reds and Left-Wingers are organized, and work through racist cliques. The manager of the radio station WPG has related that when the left-wing Martin Agronsky, who speaks with a gutteral, Russian accent, got so "strong" the station dropped him, about six letters came indorsing the dropping; a stack a " foot and a half high" came-demanding his restoration. So-the station manager put him back although he is constantly attacking American employers and belittling business.

That happens because Americans are tolerant even of those who attack Americanism and are asleep to destructive influences. BUT MOSTLY IT HAPPENS
BECAUSE AMERICANS ARE UNORGANIZED AND DON'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON AND
WHAT THEY CAN DO ABOUT IT- WHILE THE REVOLUTIONISTS ARE ORGANIZED AND
GET INSTRUCTIONS JUST WHAT TO DO. THIS SITUATION WE MUST ~~CURE~~!

IT IS NECESSARY TO REVIVE "AMERICA FIRST" (which never died out)

in Palm Beach County.

DEAR CITIZEN C. THE PALM BEACHES:

A radio station in our community has been told to drop a truth-telling nationally known commentator, Upton Close, whom it had invited to relate the history of American Radio comment.

The order has been reinforced under threat of asking Jewish businesses to take their advertising away from this radio station.

From the same general source, on June 3rd, came an intolerant and interfering demand by an attorney named Harry Goodmark made on the Program Chairman of a West Palm Beach Service Club that it remove its luncheon speaker!

SUCH INTOLERANCE, INTERFERENCE AND INTIMIDATION-has become a pattern throughout the United States and Canada. It is carried on by an organized left-wing clique of Jewish professional agitators calling themselves "Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai Brith. (Meaning " Sons of the Covenant"). They collect, by their reports, four to six million dollars a year from Jewish merchants and professional men to "protect" Jews from what they call "anti-semitism" and negroes from "race prejudice"- (as the AGITATORS chooses to define it).

THERE HAS BEEN NO "ANTI-SEMITISM" or discrimination against Jews in this community. BUT-THERE IS AN ATTEMPT BY AN INSIDE JEWISH CLIQUE TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMUNITY-WHO MAY OR MAY NOT SPEAK TO THEM.

Not all Jewish business is taking part in this intolerance, interference and SUPPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH. But-JEWISH BUSINESS MEN CAN QUICKLY STOP IT IF DETERMINED. IT HAS BEEN STOPPED COLD IN OTHER COMMUNITIES!

You might like to let the Jewish merchants with whom you trade and your Jewish friends know how you feel about this- and that it is bad business to boot.

ALL IN ONE PLACE
Sub-Committee to Protect Free Speech in Palm Beaches.
By (Respond to) Box 2223-Sta.A. Palm Beach, Florida.

DATE 10-26-90 / SGT/C1 (Over)

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE.

June 26, 1953

100-4712-537

RECORDED - 75

INDEXED - 75

EX-129

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 0-26-90 BY SP8TS/csc

b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

I appreciate the interest which prompted your letter of June 19, 1953, with enclosure, and I want to thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

While I would like to be of service, I am unable to comment on this organization inasmuch as data in FBI files is confidential and available for official use only. Also, the FBI is strictly a fact-finding agency and is not authorized to draw conclusions concerning the character and integrity of any organization, individual, or publication.

I know you will understand the reason for this rule and will not infer either that we do or that we do not have any information concerning the organization to which refer.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Miami, with copy to incoming.

ATTENTION SAC: The enclosure submitted by correspondent was a printed letter from the Sub-Committee to Protect Free Speech in Palm Beaches of the America First Committee. Its address was given as Box 2223, Station A, Palm Beach, Florida. It was addressed to the citizens of the Palm Beaches and denounced the fact that a radio commentator, named Upton C is being forced to leave his position.

(Note Continued on next page.)

78 JUN 26 1953

R/S

✓g

b7c

June 26, 1953

(continued)

Note: Bureau files reflect that the America First Committee was a "clearing house for all anti-Semitic individuals and groups." It was also alleged to be made up of Pro-Fascist groups.

Office Memorandum

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
FROM: WJ Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General,
Criminal Division
SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST, INC.

letter dated July 23, 1953, from [REDACTED] regarding
America First, Inc., and a copy of this Division's reply thereto.

Enclosure No. 49949

COPIES DESTROYED
5 JUL 27 1973

68 AUG 31 1953

RECORDED-39
INDEXED-39

EX-125

100-471
37 AUG 18

August 17, 1953

WO:RMR:am

146-1-0

b7c

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Felt
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Clegg
Miss Gandy

C O P Y

AUGUST 19

b7c

Associate [REDACTED]

July 23rd, 1953

Attorney General's Office
Washington, D. C.

To: AMERICA FIRST, INC.

Dear Sir:

Please inform me whether or not the above-named corporation has been listed as a subversive, Fascist, or Communistic group by the Attorney General's Office or the Civil Service Commission for the United States. Also please send me a list of the recently declared additions on your list that is consolidated to determine the loyalty of government employees. I understand that 26 groups have recently been added to this group.

If you have no information on the above club, I would suggest that you investigate the club's activities in this area so that unsuspecting citizens do not get involved if there is anything wrong with it. My main purpose in asking for this scrutiny of the club is its apparent BUT VERY SECRET activities in this community recently.

I will be glad to show any agent of yours or the FBI office recent communications that I have received from this group.

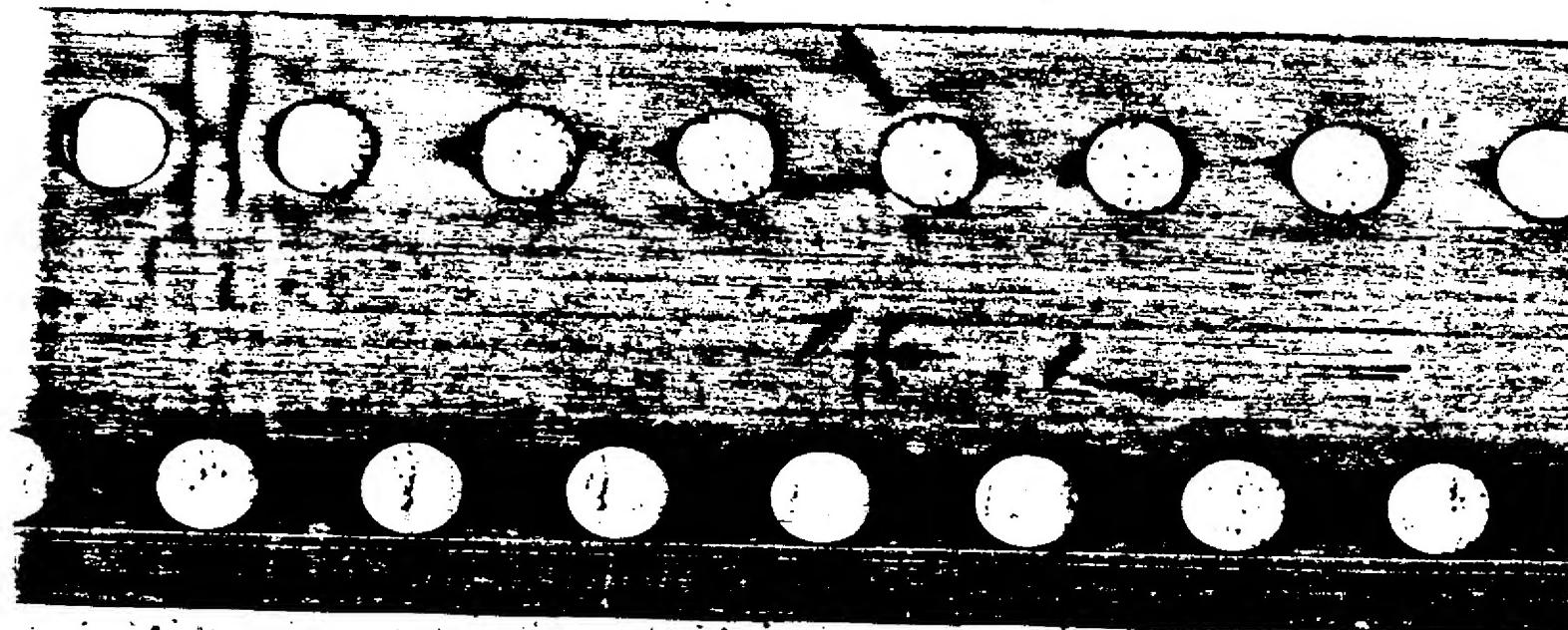
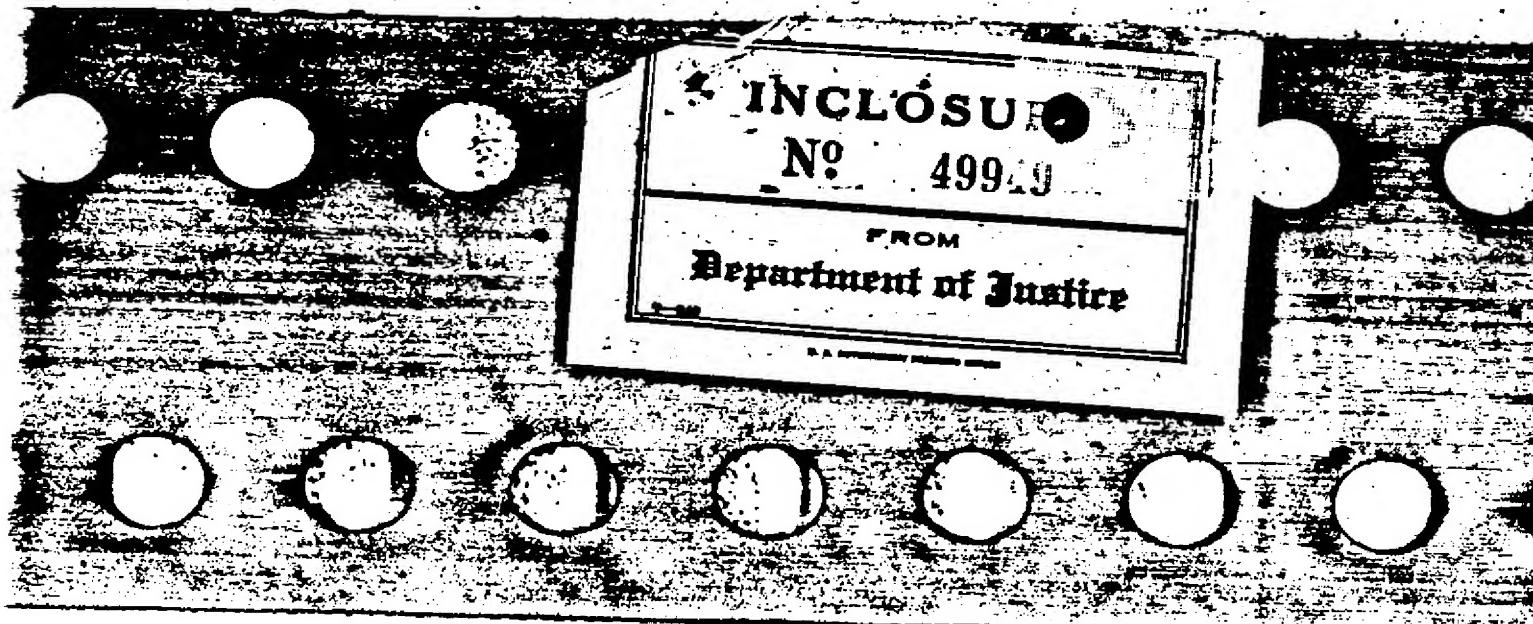
With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

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5 JUL 27 1973

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| REPORT MADE AT MIA | DATE WHEN MADE 16/29/53 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/12, 16, 29, 7/21; 9/1, 15, 17, 21, 24, 25, 30; 10/22, 23/53 | REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c |
| TITLE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE | CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X | | |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

America First Committee purportedly active, Palm Beach and West Palm Beach, Florida, area during June and July of 1953

Investigation indicates individual participation with others, but no evidence of an actual organization developed.

DETAILS:

On July 24, 1953,

60801/EDM 10-26-90
1 Oct 1953
DECLASSIFIED BY R. [REDACTED] 10-26-90
ON 10-26-90 R.T. 10-26-90
SPECIAL 10-26-90

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b7D

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| COPIES MADE AND SERVED 6-Bureau (RM) 3-Chicago (RM) -Baltimore (Info) (RM) Washington Field (Info) (RM) Cleveland (Info) (RM) MI (100-502) | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE P. [REDACTED] | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 100-4912-539 | INDEXED - 87 b7C |
| IN FILE | | 37 NOV 3 1953 | |
| <p>THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE THE BUREAU.</p> <p>5 NOV 1953</p> | | | |

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It is to be noted that information concerning the distribution of pamphlets addressed to the "Dear Citizens of the Palm Beaches", and signed by the America First Committee

MM 100-508

was first reported to the Resident Agency Office of West Palm Beach, Florida, by [redacted]

furnished information concerning

further states that

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[REDACTED], who has allegedly disseminated America First leaflets [REDACTED] in Palm Beach, Florida.

MM 100-508

[REDACTED]

Based on the information as set forth above, the following investigation was initiated:

AT PALM BEACH AND WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA:

As previously indicated, on July 12, 1953,
[REDACTED], reported that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MM 100-508

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The Miami Herald, Palm Beach edition, dated July 31, 1953, contained an article captioned "CLOSE Sees Downfall of Republic". This article sets forth that CLOSE appeared as a speaker before the Boynton Beach, Florida, Rotary Club, in which CLOSE spoke, saying that there was little hope for salvaging of the western democracy, claiming a trend towards Socialism and Dictatorship, and the ultimate downfall of the two-party political system in America, and the infiltration of Communism into the United States. CLOSE included in his speech a tirade against Bishop G. BROMLEY OXNAM, and was generally critical of the administration policy with respect to the Korean truce.

[REDACTED], of unknown reliability, advised the following information which relates to this matter

MM 100-508

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First Committee here in the Palm Beaches and that the America was reportedly the President of this same organization. According to the informant, GEORGE DEATHERAGE is also a leader

MM 100-508

in the America First Movement. However, activity with respect to the America First Committee, at present, is not active



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The Mobile Office, by communication dated October 6, 1953, advised that [REDACTED] Secretary of State Office, Tallahassee, Florida, had made a careful check of the corporation records in her office on October 2, 1953, and advised that there was no record reflecting that the America First Committee, or any organization having a similar name, had been incorporated in the State of Florida.

A summary of information developed during this investigation concerning the following named individuals reported active in the America First movement is as follows:

UPTON CLOSE, 613 South Lakeside Drive, Lake Worth, Florida, commentator, news analyst, editor of the Washington newsletter captioned "Closer Up", reportedly leader of America First Committee in the Palm Beaches. Logical sources of information unproductive.



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XXXXXX
XXXXXX

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552 (b)(1) (b)(2) (b)(3)

 (b)(4) (b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(B) (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(D) (b)(7)(E) (b)(7)(F) (b)(8) (b)(9)**Section 552a** (d)(5) (j)(2) (k)(1) (k)(2) (k)(3) (k)(4) (k)(5) (k)(6) (k)(7)

- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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FBI/DOJ

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Mr. Boardman _____
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10-26-50 318,519
7-2 b7c
Book orders for
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Bureau files indicate a Dr. Gregory Mason of Riverside, Conn., was one of the leading men in the Stamford, Conn., American First Committee in 1942. Other references indicate a Professor Gregory Mason, NY University, probably the same individual, was active in the America First Committee. The 3/16/44 "New York Post" carried an article in which was stated NY Univ. student publication protested alleged anti-British and anti-Administration remarks by Prof. Gregory Mason, Journalistic Dept (America First Committee was incorporated under Not-for-Profit Laws of Illinois 9/19/40, its purposes being outlined as to encourage and maintain in USA (1) peace and democratic ideals, (2) a program of adequate defense, (3) a furtherance of peace on this continent, a policy of non-integration in affairs of other continents, (4) to encourage giving help to refugees and needy in other lands insofar as such help does not endanger the peace of the U.S. Its headquarters were in Chi, with approximately 750 local chapters and units. It generally directed its activities toward influencing public opinion in the U.S. in opposition to America's involvement in World War II. It was dissolved shortly after U.S. entered World War II.)

Dear Mr. Hoover: I think you'll get a laugh from this. A lovely gal decides to infiltrate the F.B.I. just before the "Catholic-Caddy" vs. "Atheist-Communist" civil war in 1975 vs. "Free Americans". She ends up This is fine satire, entertaining but also provocative; learned up and witty. More than this, Mr. Mason is saying things about American life and society that need to be said; and the comic surface hardly conceals the moralist and prophet."

—MAXWELL GEISMAR, noted critic, author *Writers in Crisis*, *The Last of the Provincials*, etc.

marrying into F.B.I. Best wishes, *Gregory Mason*
6/15/56 *Riverside, Conn.*

They're talking about . . . Conn.

Gregory Mason
Riverside, Conn.,

the golden archer

A
Satirical Novel
of 1975

GREGORY MASON

\$3.50



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INDEXED - 6A 100-47772 - 541
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66 JUL 10 1956

"I was perfectly delighted . . . No, I don't mind anyone pointing out that Southern Calvinists need criticism along with Northern Irish Catholics. Best luck!"

—PAUL BLANSHARD, Author *American Freedom and Catholic Power, Communism, Democracy and Catholic Power, The Irish and Catholic Power*, etc.

"It's a most exciting kick. I trust the censors keep their pants on."

—ERIC TEMPLE BELL, Professor of Mathematics, California Institute of Technology, author many popular books on mathematics (and many science fiction novels under pen name John Taine).

"It is a bawdy and exciting contrivance . . . I wonder if I've really expressed the fun I had with THE GOLDEN ARCHER. It bristles with ideas."

—OSCAR CARGILL, author of *Intellectual America*, Chairman, Dept. of English, Wash. Sq. College, N.Y.U.

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—HERBERT FAULKNER WEST, author, critic and Professor of Comparative Literature, Dartmouth College.

"Utterly stimulating . . . an extraordinarily well plotted book."

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"The American people would do well to read it and read it."

—ALFRED McCCLUNG LEE, author *How To Understand Propaganda*, etc. Chairman, Dept. Sociology and Anthropology, Brooklyn College.

"I have enjoyed enormously your vivid, pungent novel."

—LAWRENCE S. KUBIE, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry,
Yale University.

"I couldn't put it down . . . Delighted me from start to finish with its humor, suspense . . . and the honesty and truth it is filled with . . . The only thing to do is reread it and there are damned few books I can say that about."

—BENEDICT THIELEN, novelist whose short stories are frequently in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Atlantic* and in the O. Henry and O'Brien collections.

"What fun to read it! But much more than fun . . . the number of sacred cows skillfully punctured, of pompous pretensions deflated, is exhilarating."

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"An uproarious reading adventure. Unquestionably creative thinking and a very funny satire."

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"We've enjoyed THE GOLDEN ARCHER so much that we've initiated a fear-exorcising ceremony at breakfast."

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"I have never read anything like it . . . Whodunit, Satire, Racy Romance, Social Criticism and Analysis of Religion all in one . . . Sweet old ladies will not read it. Your approving audience is limited to (a) high I.Q.'s, (b) atheists and heretics, (c) libertarians, (d) readers with a taste for social satire, (e) people with insight into the motives behind the various witch-hunts."

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New York University, and Secretary, NYU Chapter,
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"It's a joy to read."

—AARON SUSSMAN, Sussman & Sugar, Inc., specialists in book advertising, New York.

"Highly imaginative, witty, instructive. Your flow of invention seems perfectly inexhaustible, and gives the book a wonderful vitality."

—MILTON CRANE, critic, author, formerly Professor of English, University of Chicago.

"I am deeply disturbed (with tongue in cheek) at your apparent efforts to weaken the moral fiber of our citizens. Also, it bothers me not a little (still with tongue in cheek) to see you link John Calvin and the Pope when anyone knows that only 'Catholics' are 'blind.'"

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—KARL J. HOLTZKNECHT, Head, Department of English, Graduate School of Arts and Science, New York University.

"I read it with the greatest interest and amusement."

—PAUL LUSSHEIMER, M.D., Psychoanalyst and Lecturer.

TWAYNE PUBLISHERS, INC.

31 Union Square West, New York 3
Gentlemen:

Please send me copy/ies of Gregory Mason's THE GOLDEN ARCHER @ \$3.50 per copy.

I enclose \$..... in check or money order.

Name

Address

City & State